

IN THE CLAIMS

The status of each claim in the present application is listed below.

Claims 1-4: (Canceled).

5. (New) A raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage, comprising Aspartame as a sweetener and an emulsifier having an HLB value of 1 to 14 or/and an emulsifier having a molecular weight of 50 to 300.

6. (New) A raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage, comprising Aspartame as a sweetener and an emulsifier having an HLB value of 3 to 11.

7. (New) The raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 5, wherein said emulsifier is a glycerine fatty acid ester.

8. (New) The raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 6, wherein said emulsifier is a glycerine fatty acid ester.

9. (New) The raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 7, wherein said glycerine fatty acid ester is at least one selected from the group consisting of glycerine monocaprylic acid ester, glycerine monocapric acid ester and diglycerine monocapric acid ester.

10. (New) The raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 8, wherein said glycerine fatty acid ester is at least one selected from the group consisting of glycerine monocaprylic acid ester, glycerine monocapric acid ester and diglycerine monocapric acid ester.

11. (New) The raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 5, wherein the emulsifier has a molecular weight of 100 to 270.

12. (New) The raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 6, wherein the emulsifier has a molecular weight of 100 to 270.

13. (New) The raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 5, which contains 0.1 to 20 ppm of the emulsifier.

14. (New) The raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 6, which contains 0.1 to 20 ppm of the emulsifier.

15. (New) The raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 5, which contains 1 to 10 ppm of the emulsifier.

16. (New) The raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 6, which contains 1 to 10 ppm of the emulsifier.

17. (New) The raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 5, further comprising cola flavoring.

18. (New) The raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 6, further comprising cola flavoring.

19. (New) The raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 5, further comprising cola base.

20. (New) The raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 6, further comprising cola base.

21. (New) The raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 5, further comprising cola essence.

22. (New) The raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 6, further comprising cola essence.

23. (New) A carbonated beverage which has been prepared by carbonating the raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 5.

24. (New) A carbonated beverage which has been prepared by carbonating the raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 6.

25. (New) A method of preparing the raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 5, comprising incorporating Aspartame and the emulsifier into a liquid.

26. (New) A method of preparing the raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 6, comprising incorporating Aspartame and the emulsifier into a liquid.

27. (New) A method of preparing a carbonated beverage, comprising incorporating the raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 5 into a carbonated liquid.

28. (New) A method of preparing a carbonated beverage, comprising incorporating the raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 6 into a carbonated liquid.

29. (New) A carbonated beverage containing the raw material liquid of Claim 5.

30. (New) A carbonated beverage containing the raw material liquid of Claim 6.